

Washington State Board of Health

January 2016

The Washington State Board of Health is established in the State Constitution and serves our state by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. The Board provides leadership through rulemaking and policy development, and by offering a public forum that enables citizens to help shape state health policy.

Services

Develop statewide policy recommendations and explore ways to improve the public's health. In 2013, the Board identified multiple strategies to improve the oral health of people living in Washington and published them in the [2014 State Health Report](#). The recommendations were based on a review of established evidence and best practice models, and consultation with state and national oral health experts.

Engage the public through public meetings, and outreach to local boards of health and advisory groups. The Board holds public forums and briefings on newborn screening, youth tobacco use, and the health status of Washington residents.

Staff and support the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Council is charged with creating recommendations for eliminating health disparities by race, ethnicity and gender. The Council's June 2015 and December 2015 [reports](#) included recommendations to eliminate disparities in adverse birth outcomes, guidance for promoting equity in state government policies and programs, and provided updates on the Council's work to promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services and Health Impact Reviews.

Conduct health impact reviews, upon the request of legislators or the Governor. A health impact review provides an objective analysis of how a proposed legislative or budgetary change may impact health and health disparities in Washington.

Develop public health and safety rules. The Board engages the regulated community, the public, state and local health to examine best practices and review scientific literature for many health rules including:

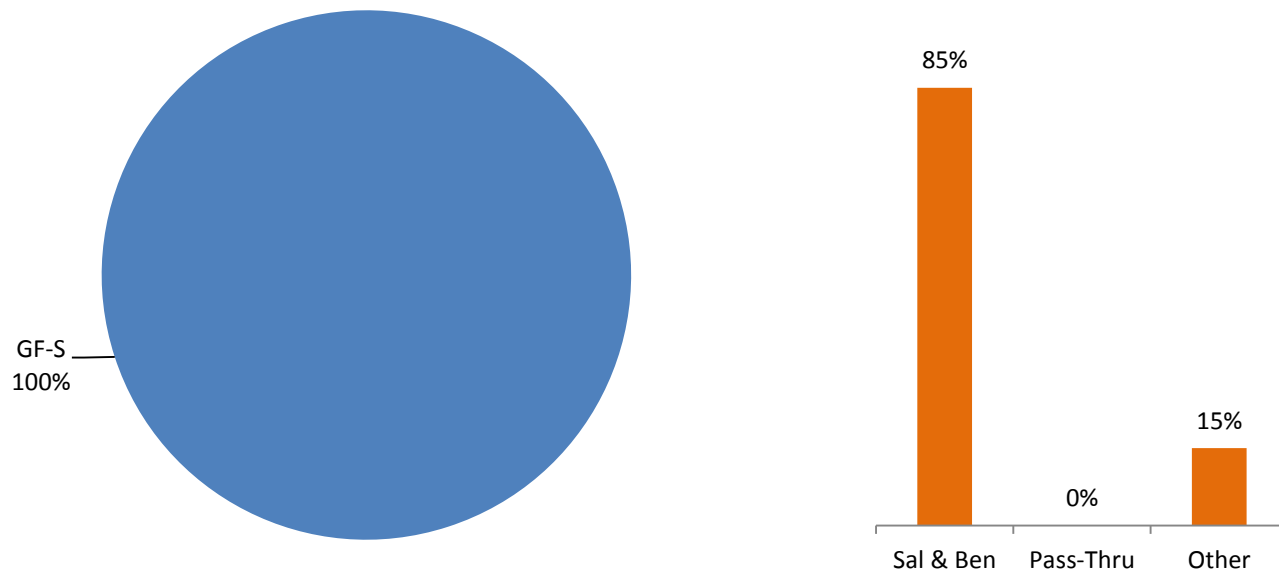
- Disease reporting
- Vital Statistics
- Drinking water systems
- Septic tanks/ onsite sewage disposal
- HIV testing and partner notification
- Immunizations
- Food service
- School environmental health
- Hotels and Motels
- Newborn screening

Stakeholders:

- Local health jurisdictions and governments
- State agencies including: Department of Health, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the departments of Ecology, Agriculture, Corrections, Fish and Wildlife, Social and Health Services, Health Care Authority, and Early Learning
- Tribes and the American Indian Health Commission
- Commissions on African American, Asian Pacific American, and Hispanic Affairs
- Regulated entities including: hotels and motels, health care facilities and providers, pool operators, onsite systems designers, drinking water system operators, grocers, restaurant owners, funeral home directors, public school districts, private schools, water purveyors, and shellfish growers

2015-17 Biennium

Washington State Board of Health Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	1,602,050	0	0	0	1,602,050	1,335,670	0	266,380

Recent Funding History

2009-11 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$119,000 per fiscal year for health impact reviews

2011-13 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$119,000 per fiscal year for health impact reviews
- In the December 2011 Early Action budget, SBOH was permanently reduced by \$68,000 GF-S per fiscal year.

2013-15 biennium:

- GF-S funding of \$119,000 per fiscal year was restored for health impact reviews

2007-2015: Awarded multi-year federal grant for health disparities.

August 2015: Federal grant for health disparities ended.